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P A P E R S

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P O L I T E A R T S.



POLITE ARTS.

A Bounty of FIFTY GUINEAS was this Session voted to Mr. R. HORWOOD, of Liverpool, for his MAP of LONDON, on a very extensive scale.

The following Communication was received from him.

S I R,

SOON after the publication of the first part of my Plan of London, a few sheets of it were, by a friend, introduced to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. and I received a letter from Mr. More, the late Secretary, requiring my attendance at the Society; when I was informed that the Committee had attended to the undertaking in which I was embarked, and were of opinion that it was

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an arduous one, and highly entitled to the approbation of the Society; but that it was contrary to the rules and establishment of the Society, to bestow any reward or notice, in any way, on an unfinished production; and that when I had completed it, I was to apply again. In obedience to this direction, I waited on Mr. More a short time before his death, who very politely congratulated me on the occasion, and said he should be happy to bring the subject forward as soon as the Society met. The Work being now finished, I take the liberty of laying it before the Society, and hope that the undertaking will entitle me to a bounty from them and their protection. The execution of it has cost me nine years severe labour and indefatigable perseverance; and these years formed the most valuable part of my life. I took every angle; measured almost every line; and after that,

that, plotted and compared the whole work. The engraving, considering the immense mass of work, is, I flatter myself, well done.

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. HORWOOD.

*Haymarket,
May 20, 1800,*

CHARLES TAYLOR, Esq.

The

THE THANKS of the SOCIETY were this Session presented to the late JAMES MALTON, Esq. of Norton-street, for the following Communication on a Method of constructing PORTFOLIOS, for the purpose of preserving Drawings, Engravings, and other Subjects of the Polite Arts.

AN ENGRAVING and DESCRIPTION of this Invention are annexed.

SIR,

AS I well know the great inconvenience experienced by artists and collectors of prints and drawings, from the want of Portfolios of dimensions capable of inclosing large subjects, and as I also well know that the means used by the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. to promulgate knowledge and useful information are earnest as they are extensive, I am induced

duced to lay before that body a Portfolio of my construction, which I persuade myself possesses every advantage that can be wished.

The difficulty, or rather the impossibility of obtaining cases or portfolios, as large as are sometimes requisite, has given rise to many expensive contrivances, to the same end ; or large prints, &c. must be kept in rolls, to their almost certain destruction, by frequency of rolling ; or at least they are thus exposed to the danger of being crushed by accident. Milled pasteboards, of which portfolios are made, are not manufactured above a certain moderate size : to exceed that size in a portfolio, is an undertaking of no inconsiderable trouble, in pasting, glueing, and pressing them together. On inquiring of Mr. Newman, of Soho-Square, (a manufacturer of these articles) how he managed to make portfolios above the ordinary dimensions, he informed me, it was an under-

undertaking of trouble, and related his having made one for a gentleman, by attaching sixteen of the largest milled boards together; that the materials alone cost five guineas; and that its weight was greater than one man could lift.

My method of construction obviates all disadvantages—weight, expence, and trouble; and portfolios of any dimensions may very readily be manufactured by the simple application of two straining-frames, covered on both sides with canvas, and papered; and connected, as all portfolios are, by leather at the back, ~~or with wooden backs, the sides being connected~~ by hinges. Thus a portfolio may be made capable of holding the largest cartoons, maps, and prints; and possessing another great advantage, besides that of not bellying or swagging, when laid against a wall, as those constructed of pasteboard do, to their own destruction, and

and material injury of the things they contain.

A frame of four feet by three will be strong enough, if made of deal. The stiles are four inches wide by half an inch thick : and they have a middle upright stile of the same width, with angle pieces at the corners, as is shown in the Engraving, Fig. 1. A frame of much greater dimensions may require two middle upright stiles ; and, if very large, a middle longitudinal stile, as is shown in the Engraving, Fig. 2.

If the frames are made of mahogany, they need not exceed 3-16ths of an inch in thickness ; but, of whatever wood they are made, it must be well seasoned, or they will warp. A padlock may be applied to such cases, for the protection of their contents.

On this construction I have made two portfolios, one of which I have had in use these ten years. A handsome one, of tolerably large dimensions, I have
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sent with this paper, for the inspection of the Society. The outer stiles of it are of mahogany, which, beaded, forms the out edge in a neat manner. Its simple formation, its lightness, and its firm flatness, must be obvious to every one; and I am of opinion the Society will obtain the thanks of all collectors and artists (if they think it worthy of insertion in the Volume of their Transactions) by making this simple matter publicly known. For my own part, I shall be highly gratified in having contributed to the comfort of artists and collectors, in preserving their valuable researches.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES MALTON.

*Norton-street,
June 25, 1802.*

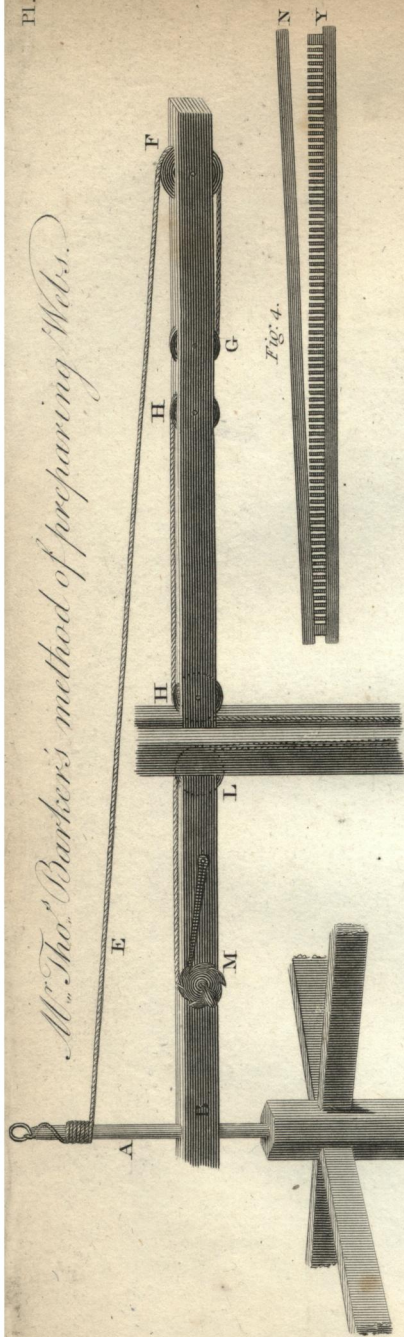
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REFERENCE to the *Engraving of Mr. JAMES MALTON'S Plan for making Portfolios for Prints, &c.*—Plate V.

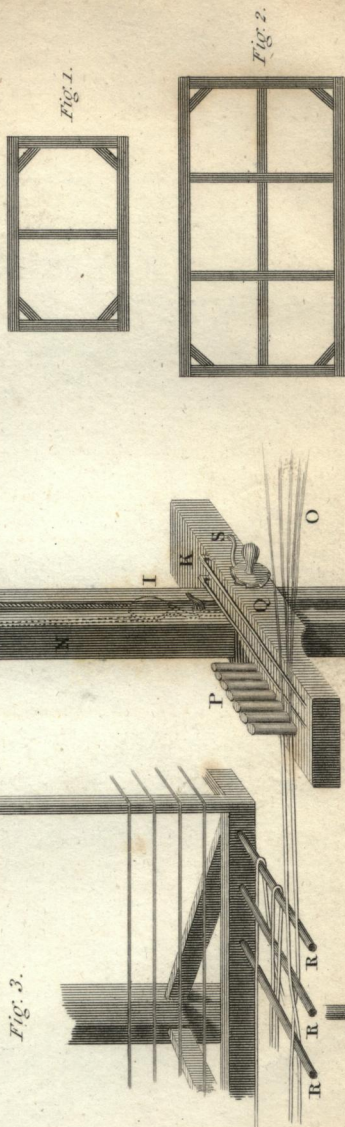
Fig. 1.—One of the sides of the frame for a portfolio, the dimensions four feet by three: it may be made of deal or fir wood. The stiles, four inches wide by half an inch thick; the middle upright stile to be of the same width. It should have angle pieces within the corners, to keep them firm.

Fig. 2.—Shows a side of another frame, where much larger dimensions are required; it should then have two upright stiles, and a middle longitudinal stile, all within the frame, and angle pieces at the corners. If it is made of mahogany, instead of deal, the stiles may be reduced nearly one-fourth in breadth and thickness; the wood, in either case, should be well seasoned, that it may not be liable to warp.

Mr. Tho. Barker's method of preparing Webs.



Mr. Malton's Portfolios.



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